

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1-24. (Canceled)

25. **(Currently amended)** A method comprising:

determining whether no single system among a plurality of systems identifying a set of

~~systems of a plurality of systems, wherein each system in the set of systems~~
meets a resource requirement for hosting a first application ~~[[of]] among a~~
plurality of applications, ~~and the plurality of systems form at least one~~
~~cluster; and~~

if the determining indicates that when no single system[[s]] among the plurality of
systems meet the resource requirement, ~~requirements for hosting the first~~
~~application;~~

using a respective priority for each of the applications for identifying a resource to
free, wherein the resource is one of a plurality of resources, ~~[[and]] each of~~
the resources is associated with at least one of the plurality of systems, and
freeing the resource would cause a first system, associated with the
resource, among the plurality of systems to meet the resource requirement;
and

freeing the resource in response to the identifying the resource.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein
the identifying the resource further comprises
using a respective capacity for each of the plurality of systems for identifying the
resource.

27. **(Canceled)**
28. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 27 further comprising:
starting the first application on the ~~associated~~ first system.
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein
the freeing the resource comprises stopping a second application that is using the
resource, wherein the second application has a lower respective priority than a
respective priority of the first application.
30. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 27 wherein
the freeing the resource comprises moving a second application that is using the resource
to a second system ~~[[of]]~~ among the plurality of systems, wherein
the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the first
application.
31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising:
determining that the first application is to be started.
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein
the determining that the first application is to be started comprises
detecting that the first application failed.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein
the determining that the first application is to be started comprises
comparing a respective priority of the first application with each of a set of respective
priorities for a set of the applications running on the plurality of systems, and
determining that the first application is to be started when the respective priority of the
first application is higher than one of the set of respective priorities for the set of
applications running on the plurality of systems.

34. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 25 wherein the determining comprises identifying the set of systems comprising including a selected system in the set of systems when the selected system ascertaining whether a selected system among the plurality of systems meets a prerequisite for the first application.
35. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 25 wherein the determining comprises identifying the set of systems comprising including a selected system in the set of systems when ascertaining whether the first application does not exceed a limit for a selected system among the plurality of systems. the selected system.
36. **(Currently amended)** An apparatus comprising:
a determining circuit configured to determine whether no single system among a plurality of systems an identifying module to identify a set of systems of a plurality of systems, wherein each system in the set of systems meets a resource requirement for hosting a first application [[of]] among a plurality of applications, and the plurality of systems form at least one cluster; and
a priority module an identifying circuit configured to use a respective priority for each of the applications for identifying a resource to free when if the determining circuit determines that no single system[[s]] among the plurality of systems meet the resource requirement requirements for hosting the first application, wherein the resource is one of a plurality of resources, [[and]] each of the resources is associated with at least one of the plurality of systems, and
freeing the resource would cause a first system, associated with the resource, among the plurality of systems to meet the resource requirement; and
a freeing circuit configured to free the resource in response to the identifying circuit identifying the resource.

37. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the ~~priority module~~ identifying circuit is further configured to use ~~further uses~~ a respective capacity for each of the plurality of systems for identifying the resource.
38. **(Canceled)**
39. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising: a starting ~~module~~ circuit configured to start the first application on the first associated system.
40. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the freeing ~~module~~ circuit comprises a stopping ~~module~~ circuit configured to stop a second application that is using the resource, wherein the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the first application.
41. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the freeing ~~module~~ circuit comprises a moving ~~module~~ circuit configured to move a second application that is using the resource to a second system ~~[[of]]~~ among the plurality of systems, wherein the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the first application.
42. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising: a determining ~~module~~ circuit configured to determine that the first application is to be started.
43. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the determining ~~module~~ circuit comprises a detecting ~~module~~ circuit configured to detect that the first application failed.

44. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the determining ~~module~~ circuit comprises a comparing ~~module~~ circuit configured to compare a respective priority of the first application with each of a set of respective priorities for a set of the applications running on the plurality of systems, wherein the determining ~~module~~ circuit determines that the first application is to be started when the respective priority of the first application is higher than one of the set of respective priorities for the set of applications running on the plurality of systems.
45. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the ~~identifying module~~ determining circuit comprises an ~~including module to include a selected system in the set of systems when the selected~~ system an ascertaining circuit configured to ascertain whether a selected system among the plurality of systems meets a prerequisite for the first application.
46. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the ~~identifying module~~ determining circuit comprises an ~~including module to include a selected system in the set of systems when~~ an ascertaining circuit configured to ascertain whether the first application does not exceed a limit for a selected system among the plurality of systems.
~~the selected system.~~